

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful in giving names and dates, to have all letters or figures plain and distinct.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Arkansas has more newspapers in proportion to population than any other State in the Union.

—Dore Lyon, husband of the actress, Kate Claxton, has been declared a bankrupt.

—Fiske Mills, son of Clark Mills, the sculptor, is the unrequited lover of Vinnie Ream.

—The rumor that ex-President Grant would prepare a history of the war in which he bore so distinguished a part may now be set down as a fact.

—Miss Florence Davenport, youngest daughter of the tragedian, E. L. Davenport, has made a successful musical debut in Philadelphia.

—The author of "Home, Sweet Home," never had a home; and Geo. McDonald, who has eleven children, is the author of "Annals of a Quiet Neighborhood."

—Henri Rochefort, the French radical pamphleteer, being lately in Alsace, had news that he was likely to be arrested by the German Government, and only saved himself by instant and rapid flight.

—A sale took place lately in Paris of a marvelous collection of engravings. They included a quantity of almanacs, forming a regular succession of historical annals, from 1646 to 1839. These fetched \$7,200. The whole sale realized \$65,000.

—The first attempt to rival English journalism in India, by a paper in Hindustan, is soon to be made in Bombay. It is to be edited by native Mohammedans, though probably a European will be employed as an associate.

—Andrew Young, formerly headmaster of the City School, Edinburgh, Scotland, is the author of "There is a Happy Land." The hymn was composed in 1838, and has been translated into every modern tongue.

—William Wood, the publisher, died on the 10th, in his son's home, in Sixty-first Street, N. Y. He retired from business in 1868, and thereafter interested himself mainly in the affairs of the Society of Friends, of which he was a life-long member. His father was an English Quaker, who came to New York and set up a small book store at 362 Pearl Street in 1803. From this grew the publishing house of William Wood & Son. William Wood was admitted into the firm in 1822. Their place of business was then at 251 Pearl Street. William becoming especially interested in medical books, soon won a great reputation for his firm in that line. The place of business was changed several times, as the business grew, until it was finally fixed at 27 Great Jones Street. William Wood established the *Medical Record* and the *American Journal of Obstetrics*. He was one of the founders and original directors of the Mercantile Library.

Haps and Mishaps.

—During a drunken row, at Florence, Neb., Constable Simpson was called in, and, in the discharge of his duty, shot and fatally wounded a man named Davis.

—At New Haven, Conn., Charles Wells, of Galveston, Texas, was shot dead while fleeing from the police, who were attempting to arrest him and three others quarreling in the street.

—Charles H. Gilman, of Lowell, a sewing machine agent, was murdered at Rockport, Mass., on the 11th. Wm. Williams, his assistant, has been arrested on suspicion.

—The body of Miss Nettie Rossman, a respectable young lady of Tiffin, Ohio, was found in the river near that place with marks of violence upon her person, indicating murder.

—F. Dupall and Perry Hamilton, young men of Prairie du Chien, attempted suicide, the former by shooting a shot-gun off in his own face, the latter by leaping into a well. They both were saved, but very much damaged.

—A fatal accident occurred on the Tuscarawas branch of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Road from Bayard to New Philadelphia, Ohio, on the 9th.

As the train south from Bayard was crossing the bridge near Malvern, the bridge gave way, precipitating the engine into the creek, killing the fireman, James Sharp, and seriously injuring the engineer, George Dearborn.

—Forbes J. Barr, aged 18 years, was watering stock on his father's farm, six miles south of Fort Wayne, Md., on the 11th, when the valve or plunger at the bottom of the pump became disengaged. He descended into the well to adjust the plunger, was overcome by damps, and before he could get assistance expired. Aaron Wellbaum, while trying to rescue Barr, was so badly poisoned by foul air that it was half an hour before he could be resuscitated.

—William Manchester, a farmer, residing 7 miles west of Linn, Ind., was found on the 8th, about 2 miles from home, in his wagon, with his throat cut from ear to ear, his horse being tied to a tree near the road. He had the appearance of being dead several hours. It is supposed he had a large sum of money in his possession. His pockets were rifled. No clew has yet been obtained to the murderers.

School and Church.

—Every family in Boston is to be visited by religious workers, under the direction of Moody.

—The next annual Missouri State Sunday-school Convention will be held at Hannibal, May 22d, 23d and 24th.

—The first Methodist Episcopal Church in Tokio (Yodo), Japan, was dedicated on Jan. 28. The Rev. Dr. R. S. Maclay preached the opening sermon. Two hundred persons were present.

—Five churches in California have simultaneously paid church debts amounting to nearly \$100,000. One of these, the Rev. D. Stone's, raised on two successive Sunday mornings \$78,000.

—There are 1,200,000 children in Ireland of school age, and more than 1,000,000 of them are on the rolls of the National Board schools—a proportion greatly in excess of the proportion which prevails in England.

—Mr. Moody's sermons have been translated into the Spanish, Swedish and Armenian languages. A Swede is reading them to his countrymen in Mr. Moody's Church in Chicago. An Armenian edition has been published in Constantinople.

—The India and North India Methodist Episcopal Conferences have now 3,634 members and probationers. In 1864 the whole number of communicants was 209. There are now 169 Sunday-schools, in which instruction is given to 8,190 scholars.

—The School Commissioner of Hardin County, Ky., is reported to have lately said that the few school houses in his county are not as good as "the average horse stable, and that, as a whole, the people thereabouts are making greater efforts to raise stock than to educate their children."

Science and Industry.

—The City Council of Mobile have decided not to tax any cotton factories for ten years that may be erected in that city.

—The cotton blanket, quite common in France and Germany, is made by only one mill in the United States, the Eagle and Phoenix, at Columbus, Ga.

—Negotiations are in progress for a track of land in Decatur County, Ga., on which to settle a colony of French immigrants from Germanized Alsace.

—The Balloon Commission of the French Government, styling itself "Commission pour les Communications par Vole Aerienne," has become a standing institution, and includes within its province carrier pigeons, as well as aeronauts and balloons.

—Great efforts are being made by the Chinese to improve the administration and develop the resources and trade of Formosa. The coal mines at Keelung are now fitted with foreign machinery, and it is said that a telegraph is to be erected to connect the important towns on the west coast.

—There are now eight large vessels in Mobile Bay loading with timber for Europe, and four others have just cleared. They take on an average wood to the value of \$10,000. Should the proposed break-water be built in the lower bay, so as to afford a shelter for vessels while loading, this trade would at once develop into an important industry of this city.

—The cars on the line between Modane—a station on the Swiss side of the Mont Cenis Tunnel—and Turin are lit by gas, on an ingenious system devised by M. Cambrelin, chief of the lighting department of the Belgian lines, who has for many years applied it to these latter with very satisfactory results. Our railroads are sadly behind in this respect.

—We recently explained M. Montecat's new pyrophone, which consists of tubes of copper in which incandescent pieces of charcoal inclosed in wire gauze are introduced, to create an upward current of air and so to cause the pipes to sound. It is now proposed to construct an instrument on this principle on an enormous scale for the French Exposition of 1878, the tubes being large enough to receive small charcoal furnaces. The inventor points out that his device may be used as a fog signal, as it produces a loud noise and requires scarcely any machinery to operate it.—*Scientific American*.

—A denizen of Chicago is out with a new project for using the tide as a motor. His proposition embraces the construction on the sea shore of large circular air-tight tanks of masonry, the bottom to be on a level with low-water mark, and the top on a level with high-water mark. The tank is to be connected with the sea by a canal which enters below low-water line. With the top of the cover is connected a pipe, strong enough for the purpose, extending from the tank as far as required, one mile or 1,000 miles long, running to where the power is required. This pipe incloses the motive power in the form of compressed air, and the power in the pipe can be tapped anywhere—near the tank or far off is all the same—and be used as steam is now used. The rising of the water in the sea causes the air in the tank to compress. To secure a regular high pressure, the entrance (mouth) of the canal into the tank is fixed with a gate, which is shut and opened at intervals, in midway of the tides.

Foreign Notes.

—Paris proposes to hold in the winter of 1877, or during the period of the Exposition, a grand book fair, modeled after the famous ones at Leipzig.

—The King of Siam is only 24 years old, and has nine wives already. But people wed with the greatest of Siam—case in that country.

—It is claimed that the population of Palestine is now double what it was ten years ago. The principal migration of Jews thither is from Russia.

—One of the Chinese Ambassadors in London has promised Miss Monroe, a pretty American actress, to build for her a theater of ivory as wide as London.

—An unknown young man of 30 precipitated himself on the 24th of March from the column of the Bastille in Paris. The fall was arrested by a projection, but when the body was obtained, it was found to be lifeless. The next day a man jumped from the top of the Arc de Triomphe under peculiar circumstances. He ascended the building in high spirits with a friend, and, on reaching the summit, said, as he approached the edge, "Supposing I were to jump!" His companion told him to stop such nonsense, and the young man retired and began discussing the scenery. A few minutes afterward, he again approached the brink, saying, calmly, "Look, I'm going to jump." He did so, and was taken up a mass of unrecognizable flesh.

—When the Emperor of Germany appeared at the recent great ball in Berlin, it was remarked that he had an almost youthful freshness of complexion, and also that his countenance was mild and beaming. The Empress was with him, attired in a simple robe of white; a splendid diadem of diamonds sparkled in her dark hair, whence depended a large white ostrich feather. By her side was the Crown Princess, in a light lilac dress of satin damask, trimmed with lace. She wore a small tiara of diamonds, and round her neck a string of large white pearls, with earrings to match. This precious set of pearls, unique of its kind, was presented to the Princess by the city of London. She likewise had in her hair a feather of the same delicate hue as her dress.

Odd and Ends.

—Not an optical delusion—the 'high winds' of spring.

—Clergymen, like brakemen, do a good deal of coupling.

—Mrs. Partington says Ike has bought a horse so spirituous that he always goes off in a decanter.

—As the young lady remarked about the infant: "How sweet, but how bald for one so young."

—An impudent adventurer having married an heiress, a wit remarked that the bridegroom's brass was out-shone by the bride's tin.

—An Irishman, who was asked why he wore his stockings wrong-side out, replied: "Because there was a hole on the other side."

—A spinster lady of 50 remarked the other day that she could go alone at six months old. "Yes," said her hateful young half-brother, "and you have been going alone ever since."

—His Majesty the King of Dahomey is trying to beg off from a part of his fine of 500 punchcons, and it does, in fact, seem exorbitant. Why don't the British commander just let him have one good punchcon be done with it?

—The New York Herald informs us that an author of that city is writing a book "On Paper." On what in the mischief could he write it but on paper? *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Well, he might write on compulsion, or on reflection, or on Sunday.—*St. Louis Republic*.

Art at the Bottom of the Tiber.

A correspondent writing from Rome, March 22, says: "On Monday, the 12th, the first blow of the pick was struck in the bed of the Tiber, in pursuance of the long talked of scheme of draining and embanking the river. The number of men thus far employed upon the works, the cost of which is estimated at 60,000,000 francs, amounts to 17 or so, a proportion which, if continued, will defer the completion of the project to A. D. 2150. This gives us leisure to take into consideration the probabilities of discoveries being made in the bed of the river, in other words, whether the chance of such discoveries is real or imaginary. In the fever of research which, during the last four centuries, has turned up the soil of Rome, the bed of the Tiber has certainly not been spared, and yet the discoveries have not come up to the public expectation. Such poor results, notwithstanding the magnificence of the buildings which stood on the quays, and parts of which must have fallen into the bed of the river, can be easily explained from the muddy quality of the water. The proportion of solid matter to liquid, which, in ordinary circumstances, is 4 per cent., of ten, during the floods, reaches an average of 18 to 21 per cent. The bed is consequently made of quicksands of light mud, through which heavy objects sink fast to a great depth. The central pier of the tubular bridge at St. Paola is sunk for more than 60 feet. In October, 1865, a train of 12 trucks, loaded with stone, fell into the river from the same bridge, stopping navigation. When, a month afterward, the Government engineers went to clear away the debris, not a fragment of the trucks, not a stone was found; all had been swallowed up by the mire. How is it possible, under such circumstances, to think of finding works of art at the bottom of old Father Tiber? Still, there are some who hope for the recovery of the bodies of Maxentius and his staff, all clad in gold armor, and expect to disinter the seven-branched candlestick. They seem to forget the following passage of Aurelius Victor: "Maxentius," he says, "endeavoring to cross the bridge of boats, which had been constructed for the use of his army, a little below Ponte Monte, was thrown by his frightened horse into the waters and eaten up by the quicksands on account of the weight of his cuirass. Constantine had great difficulty in finding his corpse." As regards the Jewish treasures, no doubt the golden table, the silver trumpets, and the candlestick were deposited by Titus and Vespasian in the newly built Temple of Peace. They escaped destruction in the fire of 192; and Procopius, in his War of the Goths, says he had heard they had been carried away by King Alaric, who was buried with his treasures in the River Basentus, near Cosenza. In that river, therefore, and not in the Tiber, we ought to look for them, if the statement of Procopius was not contradicted by himself in the War of the Vandals, where he says, on the best testimony, that the Jewish trophies were carried by Genseric to Carthage in the year 455.